(a) whether SAARC countries have agreed to set up a Regional Institute of Meteorology in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functions of the Centre will include :

(i) Developing techniques for medium range and long range weather prediction, particularly to meet the agricultural requirements of the region, using numerical, statistical and synoptic methods;

(ii) Undertaking research relevant to weather prediction and better understanding of various aspects of monsoon and tropical meteorology particularly the interannual variability of monsoon and its rainfall;

(iii) Compiling climatological information for the region of utility to weather forecasting and agricultural activities;

(iv) Organising special observations or observing periods for monitoring special features of atmospheric circulations. Collecting their data and undertaking research on them;

(v) Evaluating the economic benefits derived through research input from the Centre for the improvement in weather forecasts and advising Member countries on the optimal utilization of outputs from RMRC.

The details regarding the budget and functioning of the proposed Centre are in the process of being worked out.

Import of pharmaceuticals and industrial goods by New Zealand

2804. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVIND RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Zealand has agreed to import pharmaceuticals and industrial goods from India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) New Zealand has indicated interest in the import of pharmaceuticals and industrial goods from India.

(b) During the discussions between Commerce Minister and the New Zealand Minister for Overseas Trade and Marketing during the latter's visit to New Delhi in March 1986, the Indian side had indicated its interest in the export of pharmaceuticals and industrial goods from India. The New Zealand Minister while taking note of our interest had indicated that they were looking at the prospects of importing pharmaceuticals and surgical equipments from India.

Effect of date of implementation of Fourth Pay Commission recommendations on pay fixation of employees

2805. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have given a certificate in the Explanatory Memorandum attached to the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986 that the retrospective effect given to these rules which the Pay Commission has recommended i.e. from 1st April, 1986 to November, 1986 will not affect adversely any employee to whom these rules apply;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the employees have been given the chance to opt for revised scales w.e.f. 1st January, 1986 or from the date of next increment; and

(c) if so, whether the instructions issued by the C&AG that employees will not be given the benefit of 20 per cent of basic pay to be included for fixation of pay in the revised scale are not contradictory to Explanatory Memorandum, as the employees whose increment fall between the period 1st January, 1986 to 1st April, 1986 are adversely affected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) The Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986, notified on 13-9-86, have been given retrospective operation w.e.f. 1-1-86, with the stipulation that such retrospective

effect will not affect adversely any employee to whom these rules apply. The initial fixation of pay in revised scale in respect of Central Government employees belonging to Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' who opt to switch over to revised scale from a date later than 1-1-1986, is to be done in accordance with the provisoins contained in rule 9 of Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986. The instructions issued by C&AG intend merely to clarify the rule position and are not contradictory to the Explanatory Memorandum appended to the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986.

Bonus to Central Government employees

2806. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the norms fixed by Government for payment of bonus to the Central Government employees; and

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on payment of bonus to such employees for the years 1983-84 to 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Bonus is sanctioned to Central Government employees on the basis of actual emoluments upto and including Rs. 2500/- per month. The maximum amount, however, is restricted to the amount admissible to those employees drawing emoluments of Rs. 1600/- per month; for those drawing monthly emoluments of more than Rs. 1600/- per month but not exceeding Rs. 2500/- per month, bonus is calculated as if the emoluments were Rs. 1600/- per month.

(b) The expenditure incurred on payment of bonus for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 is approximately Rs. 300 crores, Rs. 344 crores and Rs. 430 crores respectively.

Political asylum sought for by Indian nationals abroad

2807. SHRI AJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 8,000 Indian nationals have gone to West Germany to seek political asylum during the year 1986 and over 30,000 Indian nationals have sought 'political asylum' within the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any exercise to find out the reasons for which Indian nationals are seeking political asylum in other countries, such as U.K., France, USA, Canada etc.; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) According to information available with the Government, the figures of Indian nationals who have sought political asylum in West Germany, during the last three years (Calendar-wise) are as follows :

1984	1,083
1985	4,471
1986 (uptil August)	4,979

(b) Information gathered by us indicate that Indian nationals generally seek political asylum in order to circumvent the normal prescribed procedure for entry and residence in these countries in view of their desire to improve their economic well-being.

(c) The governments concerned have been informed that any claim of persecution or discrimination by these Indian citizens is without substance as adequate Constitutional and Administrative channels exist for the redressal of genuine grievances.

Amenities to Indian tourists visiting the Soviet Union

2808. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has given some assurance to give concessional air fares and to provide such other amenities to the Indian tourists which will make their stay in the Soviet Union more comfortable; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) No assurance has been received from